



city of
greenville

News Release

DEDICATION CEREMONY HELD FOR NEW “PEG LEG” BATES SCULPTURE

(Greenville SC) Greenville City Council members were joined by the Arts in Public Places Commission and the “Peg Leg” Bates Committee on Saturday for a ceremony to celebrate the unveiling of a new sculpture honoring the life and legacy of Clayton “Peg Leg” Bates and a plaque marking the former location of the Liberty Theater.

The “Peg Leg” Bates sculpture is an evolution of a series of welded steel pieces called the "Archangel Series." The pieces are abstracted and gestural forms intended to capture the vitality of human experience, and communicate the fluidity of movement in dance and the strength of Bates' determination in life.

The sculptor is Joseph Thompson, a teacher at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, who works in a variety of media and is best known for his figurative abstractions. Thompson has been exhibited throughout the eastern United States and his work is in collections from Boston to Miami. At the dedication, Thompson unveiled the new sculpture and discussed the connection between “Peg Leg” Bates and the Liberty Theater, which once stood on Spring Street.

The City's Arts in Public Places Commission contributed \$25,000 toward the cost of the sculpture and the “Peg Leg Bates” Committee, which is comprised of a group of private citizens, raised more than \$17,000 in private funds, including grants from the Metropolitan Arts Council and the Jolley Foundation.

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